

The Downfall of Licinius

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himself by the skill and rapidity with which he executed a long forced march despite the icy rigours of a severe season. It is Nazarius, the Panegyrist, who refers * in glowing sentences to this admirable performance—carried through, he says, with "incredibly youthful verve" (*incredibili juvenilitate confecit*),—and praises Crispus to the skies as "the most noble Caesar of his august father." When that speech was delivered on the day of the Quinquennalia of the Caesars in 321, Constantine's ears did not yet grudge to listen to the eulogies of his gallant son.

But there is one omission from the speech which is exceedingly significant. It contains no mention of Licinius, and no one reading the oration would gather that there were two Emperors or that the Empire was divided. Evidently, Constantine and Licinius were no longer on good terms, and none knew better than the Panegyrists of the Court the art of suppressing the slightest word or reference that might bring a frown to the brow of their imperial auditor. But even two years before, in 319, the names of Licinius and the boy, Caesar Licini-anus, had ceased to figure on the consular Fasti— a straw which pointed very clearly in which direction the wind was blowing.

Zosimus attributes the war to the ambition of Constantine; Eutropius roundly accusesf him of having set his heart upon acquiring the sovereignty

* Pan. Vet.<-x., 36.

f Eutropius, x., 5 : Principatum toiius or bis adfectans.